

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for billing and authentication of a communication device in a communication network, comprising:

at least one communication device deployed in at least one location;

a communication network communicatively coupled to the at least one location;

information content residing on at least one of the communication network and the at least one location; and

a card carrying information related to one or more user-defined selections of the information content,

wherein the card allows the at least one communication device to access the user-defined selections.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a third party media server, a media storage server, a broadband access headend, a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, a closed communication infrastructure, a local area network, and a wireless infrastructure.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein the communication network comprises an Internet.

4. The system according to claim 1, wherein the communication network comprises a local area network.

5. The system according to claim 4, wherein the local area network comprises at least one of an Ethernet and an 802.11b wireless network.

6. The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one communication device comprises at least one of a computer, a storage device, a media peripheral, set-top box circuitry, a television, a display, and a remote control.

7. The system according to claim 1, wherein the information content comprises at least one of third party media content, digital video, digital images, digital audio, documents, files, broadcast television programs, radio channels, news programming, sporting events programming, special programming, and on-demand movies.

8. The system according to claim 1, wherein the card comprises at least one of a chip-enabled card, a magnetic strip card, and a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card.

9. The system according to claim 1, wherein the information carried on the card is related to at least one of accessing the user-defined selections by the at least one communication device, processing the user-defined selections by the at least one communication device, pushing the user-defined selections onto the communication network, pushing user-created information content onto the communication network, information relating to securing a payment, information relating to payment terms, information relating to billing, information relating to content push restrictions or limitations, and information relating to content access restrictions or limitations.

10. A system for billing and authentication of a communication device in a communication network, comprising:

a first communication device deployed at a first location;

a second communication device deployed at a second location;

a communication network communicatively coupled to the first location and the second location;

an independent server residing on the communication network; and

information content residing on at least one of the first location, the second location, and the communication network,

wherein the independent server is adapted to provide media exchange services related to user-defined selections of information content to the first communication device and the second communication device, upon receipt of authentication and billing information from the first communication device.

11. The system according to claim 10, wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a third party media server, a media storage server, a broadband access headend, a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, a closed communication infrastructure, a local area network, and a wireless infrastructure.

12. The system according to claim 11, wherein the communication network comprises an Internet.

13. The system according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the first communication device and the second communication device comprise at least one of a computer, a storage device, a media peripheral, set-top box circuitry, a television, a display, and a remote control.

14. The system according to claim 10, wherein the information content comprises at least one of third party media content, digital video, digital images, digital audio, documents, files, broadcast television programs, radio channels, news programming, sporting events programming, special programming, and on-demand movies.

15. The system according to claim 10, wherein the media exchange services comprise at least one of granting the first communication device or the second communication device access to the user-defined selections, processing the user-defined selections by the first communication device or the second communication device, pushing the user-defined selections onto the communication network, and pushing user-created information content onto the communication network or between the first communication device and the second communication device.

16. The system according to claim 10, wherein the authentication and billing information is related to at least one of information relating to securing a payment, information relating to payment terms, information relating to billing, information relating to content push restrictions or limitations, and information relating to content access restrictions or limitations.

17. A method for billing and authentication of a communication device in a communication network, comprising:

a) selecting media exchange services to be provided to a first communication device and a second communication device, the media exchange services relating to user-defined selections of information content available on the communication network;

b) purchasing a card, the card giving access to the selected media exchange services available on the communication network;

c) communicatively coupling the card with the first communication device; and

d) accessing of the selected media exchange services by the first communication device.

18. The method according to claim 17, further comprising:

e) allowing the second communication device to access the selected media exchange services.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein allowing the first communication device or the second communication device to access the selected media exchange services comprises at least one of granting the first communication device or the second communication device access to the user-defined selections, processing the user-defined selections by the first communication device or the second communication device, pushing the user-defined selections onto the communication network, and pushing user-created information content onto the communication network or between the first communication device and the second communication device.

20. The method according to claim 17, further comprising:

e) allowing the second communication device to access user-created information content that is available to the first communication device.

21. A method for billing and authentication of a communication device in a communication network, comprising:

a) selecting media exchange services to be provided to a first communication device and a second communication device, the media exchange services relating to a user-defined selection of information content that is available on the communication network;

b) establishing a subscription with an independent server located on the communication network, the subscription allowing for access by the first communication device and the second communication device to the selected media exchange services available on the communication network;

c) entering identification information via the first communication device, the identification information validating the subscription; and

d) accessing the selected media exchange services by the first communication device.

22. The method according to claim 21, further comprising:

e) accessing the selected media exchange services by the second communication device.

23. The method according to claim 21, further comprising:

e) allowing the second communication device to access user-created information content that is available to the first communication device.

24. The method according to claim 21, wherein allowing the first communication device and the second communication device to access the selected media exchange services comprises at least one of granting the first communication device or the second communication device access to the user-defined selections, processing the user-defined selections by the first communication device or the second communication device, pushing the user-defined selections onto the communication network, and pushing user-created information content onto the communication network or between the first communication device and the second communication device.

25. The method according to claim 21, wherein establishing the subscription comprises at least one of establishing information securing payment, establishing information regarding payment terms, establishing information regarding billing, and establishing information content push/access restrictions and limitations.